



7.3 Prioritizing Local Assistance

Requirement: §201.4(c)(4)(iii): The section shall include] criteria for prioritizing communities and local jurisdictions that would receive planning and project grants under available funding programs which should include: consideration for communities with the highest risks, repetitive loss properties, and most intense development pressures. [For] non-planning grants, a principal criterion for prioritizing grants shall be the extent to which benefits are maximized according to a cost benefit review of proposed projects and their associated costs.

Update Requirement §201.4(d): [The] plan must be reviewed and revised to reflect changed in development, progress in statewide mitigation efforts and changes in priorities.

The State's mitigation goal is to "reduce risk to people and property from natural and human-caused hazards." All projects will be reviewed and approved on this goal. Projects that best demonstrate the ability to protect the lives and property of the citizens of Arizona will always be prioritized first.

This section in the original Plan, discussed how ADEM intended to use MitigationPlan.com as a tool in prioritizing local assistance. However, MitigationPlan.com does not yet have all the capabilities and functionality necessary to be very useful in this area. MitigationPlan.com is discussed in detail in the previous "local Plan Integration", 7.2 of this section.

As discussed in section 7.2 (Local Plan Integration), all 15 counties in Arizona have an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan. ADEM normally coordinates all requests for assistance with the respective county emergency director. Their input into this process is essential in order to maintain the proper focus and to work towards the documented goals and objectives listed in the plans. The steps utilized in prioritizing local assistance are:

1. When mitigation monies become available to the State, ADEM will conduct project solicitation meetings throughout the State in order to maximize possible attendance. The specifics of the different programs will be explained and we will invite the local jurisdictions to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to apply for the available grant monies.
2. ADEM staff will review all received NOIs and compare proposed projects with the mitigation plans to ensure compliance with the listed goals and objectives. Any concerns or questions will be discussed with the submitting jurisdiction and county emergency director.
3. The State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO) will call a meeting to review proposed projects taking into consideration communities that are at the highest risk, repetitive loss properties, and intense development pressures. Arizona is the fastest growing State in the Nation with the two fastest growing Counties (Maricopa and Pinal) according to recent population and growth estimates.
4. The SHMO will make the first cut from the NOIs and will identify which proposals should be developed into applications with the Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) completed.
5. When all applications have been received, the SMHO will schedule a panel to review the applications based on the following criteria:
 - a. The extent and nature of the hazards to be mitigated.
 - b. The cost effectiveness of the project. ADEM will grant priority to projects that best demonstrates that their cost will not exceed the anticipated value of resulting reduction in direct damages and subsequent negative impacts to the area if future damages were to occur.
 - c. Those projects that are environmentally sound and are the most practical and effective compared with other options that have been studied.
 - d. Those projects that address a repetitive loss problem.
 - e. The extent to which the project is consistent with the goals and objectives of the applicable local government hazard mitigation plan.
 - f. The extent to which the hazard mitigation measure contributes to the overall State mitigation goals and priorities
 - g. Whether the project will have a negative impact on either the community or communities in the areas surrounding the project area.



- h. The project is reflective of changes in growth patterns, a continuation of a long term plan to improve mitigation efforts and changes in priorities.
 - i. The degree to which the local government is committed to maintaining the project and modifying the project if the need arises.
 - j. Whether the community is classified as small and impoverished. ADEM does not maintain a list of those communities with a population of 3,000 or fewer and classified as economically disadvantaged. If a community claims this status, ADEM will look at both the availability of the match for the 90% funding provided to these communities and the commitment and staff available by the community as to whether the project can be accomplished. ADEM will supply additional technical assistance to these communities if needed but all other criteria must also be met.
- 6. A rank order of projects will be developed based on the above criteria. The overall estimated cost of the projects will be balanced against the available monies. The SHMO will then decide which projects to forward to FEMA along with their established State priority.